

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraphs of the specification as follows:

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[1053] The home agent 104 stores information describing its mobile nodes 102 so that it 104 can route data to the mobile node 102. ~~To provide support for the~~ The mobile node 102 consumes resources of the home agent 104. Various kinds of resources are consumed at the home agent 104 in support of a mobile node 102. For example, typically the home agent 104 assigns an IP address for the mobile node 102 when the mobile node 102 requests registration. As more and more IP addresses are issued by the home agent 104, fewer additional IP addresses are available. Thus, IP addresses are one resource that may be consumed at the home agent 104. Processing power is another resource found at the home agent 104. The amount of memory and/or storage is another resource of the home agent 104 that is consumed as more mobile nodes 102 register with the home agent 104. Because the resources of the home agent 104 are finite, it would be beneficial for the home agent 104 to be able to reclaim or recapture resources when they are no longer needed.

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[1059] FIGs. 13A and 13B illustrate in flow diagram form of a method 1300 for the home agent 104 to reclaim resources. The method 1300 may be triggered when the home agent 104 starts to run out of needed resources or when it becomes overloaded. Depending on what resources are being monitored by the home agent 104 and depending on the implementation of the embodiments herein, an overload condition may be defined in a variety of ways. Those skilled in the art will appreciate how to determine that a particular load on certain resources constitutes an overload condition for the home agent 104. The method 1300 of FIG. ~~[[13]]~~ 13A is started when the home agent 104 has entered an overload condition, and the method 1300 is followed for each mobile node 102 whose INACTIVITY TIMER 1214 has expired. The home agent 104 may run the sequence of steps in parallel for each mobile node 102, it may stagger the steps for each mobile node 102, or it may sequentially iterate through each mobile node 102

whose INACTIVITY TIMER 1214 has expired thereby starting a new processing thread for that mobile node 102.

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[1065] Continuing with FIG. 13B, when an HA overload condition is met 1320, the home agent 104 determines if the number of mobiles having expired inactivity timers is greater than zero 1322. The home agent 104 determines if an overload condition still exists 1316 and may continue the reclaiming process 1300 as ~~define~~ defined herein. For each mobile node 102 with an expired INACTIVITY TIMER 1214, the process 1300 of FIG. 13A is initiated 1326. Note that multiple processes 1300 may be performed in series or in parallel. In one embodiment, multiple processes are performed in parallel, wherein the timing for each process (for each mobile node 102) is staggered to allow the home agent 104 time to adjust to the condition of each connection.

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[1066] Various changes may be made in the method 1300 shown in FIG. ~~[[13]]~~ 13A without detracting from the scope of the inventive principles herein. FIG. 14 illustrates a flow diagram of another method 1400 for the home agent 104 to reclaim resources. The method 1400 of FIG. 14 is similar to the flow diagram of FIG. ~~[[13]]~~ 13A with the following modifications.